

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawing submitted on 07/07/08 does not include a legend such as --Prior Art--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis et al. (US 5,809,006; hereafter Davis).

Regarding claim 1:

Davis discloses an optical writing system (see Fig. 8) for an optical disc writing apparatus, comprising:

an eight-to-fourteen encoder device (see Fig. 8, element 810 inherently includes an eight-to-fourteen encoder) having an input for receiving a data signal and an output for providing a

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single encoded signal (see Fig. 8, signal 212 is an encoded signal) which contains data information and clock information;

a laser driver circuit (see Fig. 8, elements 846, 240 and 241) having a signal input for receiving an encoded signal from the eight-to-fourteen encoder device and comprising a flipflop device (see Fig. 12, element 1212) with a data input for receiving a digital data signal (see Fig. 12; the binary signal outputted from EFM encoder is a digital data signal), and a clock input (the channel clock signal is the clock signal) for receiving a digital clock signal, wherein the laser driver circuit further comprises signal generator means (Fig. 12, element 1210 is a signal generator means) having a signal input coupled to the signal input of the laser driver circuit (signal 212 is being inputted into the EFM decoder which is the signal generator means), a data output (the binary signal outputted from the EFM decoder is being inputted into the flipflop) coupled to the data input of the flipflop, and a clock output coupled to the clock input of the flipflop (channel clock signal is being inputted to the flipflop); the signal generator means being designed to generate at its data and clock outputs a digital data signal and a digital clock signal, respectively, from the single encoded signal received at its signal input (see Fig. 12, the encoder is capable of extracting the clock signal from the EFM signal).

Regarding claims 2-10:

Claims 2-10 recite similar limitations as the original claims; hence claim 2-10 are rejected under the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action.

Regarding claim 11:

Claim 11 recites similar limitations as in claim 1; hence, claim 11 is rejected under the same reason set forth in claim 1.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 07/07/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "Davis does not disclose or suggest, an laser driver circuit ... comprises ...a signal input configured to receive a single encoded signal from an eight-to-fourteen encoder device which contains data information and clock information, ...a signal generator comprising an input coupled to the signal input of the laser driver circuit, a data output coupled to the data input of the flipflop, and a clock output coupled to the clock input of the flipflop, wherein the signal generator is configured to generate at its data and clock outputs a digital data signal and a digital clock signal, respectively, from the data information and clock information received at its signal input". Applicant supports the argument by pointing out that Davis "shows a laser driver circuit that receives a separate data and clock signal from the eight-to-fourteen encoder device". However, Examiner respectfully disagrees. As set forth in the previous Office Action, the signal 212 corresponds to the "single encoded signal" from an eight-to-fourteen encoder device as claimed. Element 846 is part of the laser driver circuit which receives the signal 212 via one signal path, not two signal paths as alleged by Applicant. Clearly, in Fig. 12, David shows that encoded signal 212 is received by the signal generator device 1210 of the laser driver circuit. The signal generator device 1210 is capable of generating/outputting a digital data signal, i.e., BINARY, and a digital clock signal, i.e., INPUT CHANNEL CLOCK.

Accordingly, claims 1-11 are not patentable over Davis.

Conclusion

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5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lixi Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-7571. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lixi Chow/
10.20.08

/Wayne Young/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2627